



Space at a premium? Courses now offered on PDA

How do you increase the course completion rate of shipboard personnel?

In May 2004, Coast Guard leadership met with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Coast Guard (SOCCOAST) Afloat partnership institutions to discuss a new idea for delivering college courses to personnel assigned to sea duty. Through this effort, a small consortium of institutions emerged with technology to deliver college courses on personal digital assistants (PDAs).

Three colleges (Coastline Community College, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, and University of West Florida) have developed the following eight courses, with more under development. They began beta testing in late spring of 2005, allowing 12 weeks for the course completion.

Coastline Community College:

- Biol 100 - Introduction to Biology
- Comm 100 - Introduction to Mass Communications
- Management/Supervision 100 - Organization/Management
- Psych 100 - Introduction to Psychology

Florida Community College at Jacksonville:

- ENC 1101 - English Composition I
- CCJ 1020 - Introduction to Criminal Justice

Where is it?

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University of West Florida:

- EME 3402 - Instructional Technology
 - EME 6428 - Evaluating Human Performance Technology Interventions
- The PDAs used



for this program provide pocket versions of industry standard software such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Media Player. The device supports audio and video playback, as

well as the capability to display Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). For example, Coastline's Mgt & Supv 100 course contains more than 90 screens of content, 65 full-motion video interviews and instructional video clips, 23 audio reviews of textbook readings, in addition to support screens, navigation tutorial videos, and interactive exercises. Courses developed by UWF and FCCJ come with a similar array of features.

UWF's Evaluating HPT Interventions is part of a four-course HPT graduate certificate and will ladder into other online graduate programs.

The partnership institutions are funding all costs for course development and hardware.

Delivering courses in this format allows students more flexibility in where and when to study. The institutions are also working on a formula where the PDA could be given to the student after the satisfactory completion of three or four courses. The flexibility combined with the motivation of a free PDA should be sufficient incentive to increase course

completion rates.

As feedback emerges from the study, the colleges are already working on expanding the project to additional courses and to other students.

According to Lt. j.g. Don Hunley, former deputy of the Voluntary Education Division at the Coast Guard Institute, the PDA project was conceptualized to address the specific environmental challenges Coast Guard members faced while underway or at



isolated land units. With its compact form, the PDA lends itself readily to learning in an environment where space was at a premium, but the positive response has opened the door for much more than originally anticipated.

DANTES supports this promising initiative and encourages expansion to the VolEd programs of the other Services.

Article contribution by Sue Reilly, Coast Guard Institute.

Testing Calendar

September

17-21 Praxis *

October

1 LSAT

7 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)

November

10, 15, 17 ASE (CONUS)

15, 16, 17 ASE (OUTCONUS)

14-19 GRE Subject *

19-23 Praxis*

December

2 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)

3 LSAT

12-17 GRE Subject *

January 2006

7-11 Praxis*

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test centers send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/05-06cal.pdf

Quarterly/TCO change test inventory reports

Stocking test centers must conduct and *immediately* submit a dated and signed Quarterly Inventory Report of exams on hand at the END of each quarter. The next quarterly inventory report is due 30 September. The report is due to the testing agencies *no later* than 15 working days after the end of the quarter. The testing agencies will not accept any quarterly report that is done more than one week before or one week after the quarter ends.

If a TCO change is done at the time of the quarterly inventory, and if the

inventories are marked QUARTERLY and TCO change, submit the inventories and the TCO appointment letter to DANTES Code 20C. Do NOT send TCO change inventory reports to the testing agencies.

Non-stocking test centers must submit a TCO change inventory at the time of a TCO change, if there are tests on hand. If there are no tests on hand, state negative inventory in the TCO appointment letter.

DEPH goes electronic

The annually printed and distributed paper-based version of the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook* (DEPH) will no longer be available starting October 2005. The FY06 DEPH, Parts I, II, and IV will only be available in electronic format.

DANTES testing personnel can access the DEPH in one of two ways:

1. DANTES has mailed the CD-ROM version of the DEPH to all DANTES Test Centers 1 September 2005. The number of CD-ROMs your center receives corresponds to the number of paper-based DEPHs received in the past. Each CD-ROM contains the FY06 DEPH, Part I, II and IV and the FY06 *Calendar of National Testing Programs* in PDF format and requires Adobe Reader to access. The DEPH *Table of Contents* is linked to each subject heading.

2. The second way to access the DEPH is online through the Exams Management Information System (EMIS). Through your EMIS account,

TCOs and ATCOs may view, search, or download the DEPH. The calendar is also available on the Examination Programs home page.

For questions or comments concerning electronic DEPH publications, contact the DANTES Examinations Program at exams@voled.doded.mil.

New SAT with writing section

As discussed in earlier DIB articles, the SAT (Form 53) distributed to DANTES test centers starting in late September for administration in FY06 is significantly different from last year's SAT.

- The Writing Section includes a student-written essay that must be administered first and adds an additional 30 minutes to the total administration time.

- Analogies were eliminated from the Critical Reasoning Section.

- Quantitative comparisons were removed from the Mathematics Section.

If your plans call for administering the SAT starting in September or October, and you have not received the new FY06 SAT, now is the time to follow-up to ensure your order was processed.

Keep in mind that Thomson Prometric/ETS will not send the FY06 SAT test booklets until your previous year SAT test booklets are received and reconciled.

Important: The SAT Test Booklet is not reusable and examinee answer sheets cannot be scored unless accompanied by a properly completed *SAT Registration Form*.



DANTES testing can help you make it to the big time!

by Linda Dickerson, Guidance Counselor, Tompkins Barracks, Heidelberg, Germany

With a pioneer work ethic, Kathy Trowbridge set out to bring up four children in beautiful Phoenix, Ariz. Who could have predicted that, as an adult, her youngest son would use his childhood experience as a springboard to become the U.S. Army's newest commissioned officer?

That is exactly what happened on Friday, July 8, in Heidelberg, Germany. During an eventful ceremony, Jonathan Dean Todd turned in his staff sergeant stripes and pinned on golden second lieutenant bars. For the representatives of the local education

represented upper level courses. The entire program was completed with an earned GPA of 3.3.

Second Lieutenant Todd's performance was so impressive that he was named Excelsior College's top military graduate. Immediately following his commissioning ceremony, the Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award was presented. Lt. Todd was selected from candidates



"...CLEP or DSST tests are the way to go."

– Lt. Todd

community, this observance represented an achievement of epic proportions.

Eighteen months ago, Staff Sgt. Todd met with counselors at the Army Education Office in Heidelberg. With 30 semester hours completed, he set out to apply to the Army's Chaplain Candidate Program. This plan required earning a four-year degree, and time was not on his side. Due to both the length of time he had already served in the Army and the non-waiverable guidelines in the Chaplaincy program, he found himself facing a deadline only 24 months away.

But complete the program he did. Even more remarkable, the NCO earned 57 college credits by taking CLEP, DSSTs, and Excelsior exams. Amazingly, 30 of these credits

nominated by Military Education Services Officers from all branches of service. He was chosen based upon academic, personal, and professional achievement, commitment to education, and service to others. In fact, he was nominated by four separate individuals.

Lt. Todd has become an unofficial ambassador from the Education Center. He states, "I give a standard briefing to the soldiers. I tell them that if they are concerned about finding time for courses because of long hours at work or a deployment, that CLEP or DSST tests are the way to go. If their schedules are too busy, these tests will help them with their goals of earning degrees."

Not every Service member will

have such tenacity and drive. Every Service member does, however, have abundant resources in the form of DANTES exams and your local education services professionals.



Top: Staff Sgt. Todd
Bottom: 2nd Lt. Todd receives commission.

Training/Counseling

Would you want this man to be your brain surgeon?

Speaker at WW06 to talk about education scams

John Bear, Ph.D., is an author of 29 books on diverse topics that include higher education, computers, U.S. history, cooking, and travel. A prominent authority on earning degrees by distance learning, Bear holds a bachelor's in psychology, a master's in journalism, a doctorate in communications, and a Harvard medical degree (specialty in brain surgery).

Actually, in the picture at right, Bear is holding his Harvard medical degree purchased from counterfeiters for \$39.

While we would prefer that he not perform brain surgery on anyone, the talented and legitimately credentialed Bear is going to lead a lively discussion with college presidents at the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium in Orlando, Fla. on Wednesday, 19

July 2006, on distance learning, accreditation issues, and scams in education. Wednesday's theme is *Quality of Learning: Assuring Desired Outcomes for Service Members*.

Help take your job performance to the next level by attending the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium the week of 17-21 July 2006.

Hotel reservations can be made starting in September 2005, by calling (800) 564-3181. Be sure and ask for the DoD WW06 Group Block.

The non-government room rate is \$129 single/double, while the government rate will be at the fiscal year



Dr. Bear

2006 per diem rate.

Check the Symposium Web site regularly at <http://www.WW06.com> for up-to-date information.

Guidance materials available

Every year DANTES publishes a booklet called *Guidance Materials*. In this booklet are descriptions of each of the guidance materials and interest inventories that are offered to education centers free of charge. It gives an overview of each instrument and directions on how to obtain the paper copy of the instrument, as well as information needed to obtain the Internet version.

The booklet contains information on the Kuder, Career Assessment Inventory, Campbell Interest and Skills Survey, Strong, and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Also, there is information on the one guidance instrument which is strictly paper-based, the Holland Self-Directed Search. All other instruments can be accessed online.

To order the *Guidance Materials*

booklet, simply complete a DANTES Material Request Form and order Stock #1258.

To reach the Counselor Support Program Manager, contact counseling@voled.doded.mil.



DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Program news

Add the following to the schools affiliated with DANTES:

California Coast University

700 North Main Street

Santa Ana, CA 92701

714-547-9625

Toll Free: 1-800-854-8768

Fax: 714-547-5777

E-mail: info@calcoast.edu

Internet: <http://www.calcoast.edu>

Accreditation: Distance Education and Training Council (DETC)

Bachelor of Science

Business Administration

Management

Psychology

Master of Business Administration

Master of Science Psychology

Master of Education Administration

Master of Education Curriculum and Instruction

Westwood College Denver North-Online

10249 Church Ranch Way

Broomfield, CO 80021

720-887-8011

Toll Free: 877-817-9525

Fax: 303-410-7996

E-mail: info@westwood.edu

Internet: <http://www.westwoodonline.edu>

Accreditation: Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT)

Associate of Science

Bachelor of Science

Master of Business Administration



Naval Station, Naples, Italy – Information Technician 3rd Class Mark Olsen takes advantage of the good weather while studying for an Italian II course through the University of Maryland, Europe. University of Maryland, Central Texas College, University of Oklahoma, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and the University of Phoenix offer a wide range of college degree programs in Europe. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Heather Warick. (RELEASED)

Columbia College of Missouri

Online Campus

1001 Rogers Street

Columbia, MO 65216

573-875-7246

Toll Free: 800-231-2391

Fax: 573-875-7445

E-mail: onlinecampus@ccis.edu

Internet: <http://www.ccis.edu/online>

Associate of Arts

Associate of General Studies

Associate of Science

Criminal Justice Administration

Business Administration

Fire Science Administration

Bachelor of Arts

Business Administration

Criminal Justice Administration

Psychology

General Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

DANTES External Degree Catalog news

Add the following to the schools affiliated with DANTES:

University of West Florida, Division of Teacher Education

11000 University Parkway

Pensacola, FL 32514

850-474-2864

Toll Free: 800-710-3233

Fax: 850-474-2844

E-mail: dted@uwf.edu

Internet: <http://uwf.edu/education>

Bachelor of Arts

Dual Major: Elementary, K-6 & Special Education, K-12

Master of Arts

Special Education, K-12

Capturing Opportunity

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

Sergeant Juan Vara, a Marine combat correspondent with the Public Affairs office of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at the Al Asad Air Base in Northern Iraq, recently submitted a motivational story of a Marine who has taken advantage of educational opportunities and has met with great success. Here are excerpts from Sgt. Vara's article entitled, *Ragin' Cajun enlists with GED, goes after master's*

years ago. It wasn't easy, but his hard work and perseverance have changed his life in ways he never imagined.

In 1994, when his mother was diagnosed with cancer, Robinson dropped out of high school and took several jobs to sustain the family. Interested in bettering himself, he earned a General Educational Development (GED) certificate from the state of Louisiana and attended Delgado Community College for a

night and knocking out my homework at lunch time and counseled me about putting in a package for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP)," said Robinson. Robinson followed the advice and was one of approximately 50 corporals to get selected for the program. He was then promoted to sergeant.

In August 2001, he received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Auburn University and was

"Why get out of the Marine Corps and go to school when you can take advantage of the programs..."



1st Lt. Robinson

degree:

In January 1996, a young man from New Orleans enlisted in the Marine Corps without a high school diploma. Less than six years later, he had a college degree and was a second lieutenant. He wasn't done.

Taking advantage of the opportunities Service members have to continue their education, 1st Lt. Jeremy A. Robinson traded his stripes and crossed rifles for gold bars almost four

year. In January 1996, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. Upon completion of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class and later meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal.

After becoming an aviation maintenance administrative clerk, Robinson reported to Marine Medium Helicopter Squad-

ron 265, Okinawa, Japan. While serving with HMM-265, he was promoted to Corporal.

He began flying as an aerial observer on CH-46E Sea Knights and accumulated approximately 100 flight-hours before his return to the U.S.

While serving with Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21, at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., he attended Pensacola Junior College. The operations officer in the unit noticed Robinson's interest in education.

"He noticed I was taking classes at

commissioned a second lieutenant.

In November 2003, he joined his current unit, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, as the maintenance material control officer and has been constantly deploying in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In Iraq since earlier this year, Robinson has racked up approximately 100 flight-hours, with about 80 of those being in combat missions.

Robinson, recently selected for promotion to captain, is scheduled to return to the U.S. and report to MALS-42 in Marietta, Ga. He plans to attend law school at Georgia State University.

"Why get out of the Marine Corps and go to school when you can take advantage of the programs the Marine Corps offers?" said Robinson. "The Marine Corps opened the door for me, but MECEP changed my life forever."

For the full story, visit: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/advisors/sea/index.htm.

Do you have a success story? E-mail me at: ea@voled.doded.mil.

Education success story

Navy Counselor First Class Spencer Martin, of Naval Station Everett, Wash. (NSE), finished his associate degree just before reporting to NSE in 2004, then completed his bachelor's degree with Excelsior College in 2005.

He took classes from Washington State University, Indiana University, and Columbia College to complete requirements for both a baccalaureate degree and entrance/acceptance into Old Dominion University's Master of Education with Teacher Certification Program at NSE.

Currently he is taking four classes per term to complete the M.Ed. before rotating and has been approved to



receive the Troops to Teachers \$5000 stipend.

"He is one of the best examples I can give our young Sailors of someone who has taken the opportunities VolEd has presented and gone forward to accomplish his goals," said Judith Sternhagen, director, Navy College Office, NSE. "He also has been instrumental in getting young Sailors, especially those assigned to him, to talk with our Navy College counselors, to take classes, and to get working on



NC1 Martin

their own degree programs."

Submit your 100-word education success story to pubs@voled.doded.mil.



DANTES says farewell to former staff member

Joyce Taylor, director of the Coast Guard Voluntary Education Services, retired on 1 July. Before joining the Coast Guard family, Taylor was an education specialist with DANTES. She credits many of the current DANTES staff with her professional growth and development during the 23 years she was on the DANTES staff.

Taylor was the deputy director for the USCG Voluntary Education Program from 1995-1997 and assumed the

duties as head of the USCG Institute VolEd department in May 1997. She was promoted to director in November 2003.

Taylor, a native of Oklahoma, has a bachelor's degree in management from Troy State University and has done graduate work in educational leadership at the University of West Florida and guidance counseling at Troy State University.

DANTES congratulates Ms. Taylor on her retirement.



Marti Readell, (right) DANTES European Advisor, and Jason Graff, Test Examiner, at the Laura Bush Education Center, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The First Lady dedicated the center in 2001.

The Army's 40th Infantry Division from California, along with military units from Argentina, Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy, and Finland, are stationed at Camp Bondsteel.

DANTES Award

The following DANTES employee recently received a government service pin:

Richard Mihalik, Office Automation, 35 years

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Military Evaluations/SOC/MIVER	1732	1162	high-edu@voled.doded.mil
WW Symposium/ACME	1732	1162	training@voled.doded.mil
Training	1884	1162	training@voled.doded.mil
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Military Counselor Network	1763	1588	mcnet_admin@voled.doded.mil
DANTES Publications/ <i>DIB</i>	1763	1588	pubs@voled.doded.mil
Education Programs Dept.	1360	1005	
Examinations	1063	1160	exams@voled.doded.mil
Distance Learning	1085	1005	dstlearn@voled.doded.mil
Tuition Assistance	1085	1161	tahelp@voled.doded.mil
Certification	1360	1005	certprog@voled.doded.mil
Distribution Center	1082	1140	dist@voled.doded.mil